

**ERIE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
AID TO INDIGENT PRISONERS SOCIETY, INC.
ASSIGNED COUNSEL PROGRAM**

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Dear Counselor:

This letter is intended to be read in conjunction with the annual application for participation in the Erie County Bar Association Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society, Inc.'s Assigned Counsel Program for the year 2011. This application includes the basic application form, separate data sheets for Family and Criminal Courts, and court location preference sheet. Please complete and return these forms as soon as possible so that your application can be processed.

If you have been admitted for two years or less and have not already done so, please also send us the following:

1. A current resume;
2. A writing sample (preferably not from a law school project/class, but if that is all that you have at this time, send us that);
3. Law school transcript (does not have to be "official");

If you have been admitted for more than 2 years, please send a writing sample and a current resume.

Those who are new to the program or who have not attended an orientation meeting previously will be invited to the next meeting following receipt of their application. If you are so scheduled, you must attend, or you will not be accepted onto the panel. Orientation meetings are held several times during the course of the year. Following that orientation you will be scheduled for an interview with members of our Professional Standards Committee, following which a determination will be made as to whether you will be accepted into the Program, including any training that might be deemed necessary. If you should be accepted into our training program it is possible, particularly when an attorney has little or no experience in the areas of practice in which we provide services, that training can take up to a year. Please note that application to this program is a competitive process, and not all attorneys who apply are accepted.

Statutory rates for assigned work are \$60/hour for misdemeanors and lesser offenses, and \$75/hour for other cases. The rates are the same both for time spent in and out of court.


I remind you that the Board of Directors of the Society has mandated that each member of the Assigned Counsel Panel be a member in good standing of the Erie County Bar Association. The Board also requires that you be a member of the New York State Defenders Association if you accept criminal assigned cases. The Defenders Association offers a great deal of backup material which you will find most worthwhile. Applications and brochures are available from the Defenders Association (website www.nysda.org) as well as from our office.

Please note that if you are obtaining this application form from our website, you must print it out, complete and sign it, and mail a hard copy to our office. We cannot accept electronic submissions of this form at this time. An original signature is required on the application. If you do not submit this application, we will assume that you do not want to accept any assigned cases.

Finally, please take note of the section at the end of the application form. By making a one-time voluntary donation in the amount you choose, withheld from your first Assigned Counsel Program check, you can contribute to our efforts to provide more and better training for our attorneys. We would appreciate your consideration of making such a contribution. A large number of quite modest amounts can make a difference. Your election to contribute or not to contribute, however, will have no impact on the number or types of assignments that you will receive.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert D. Lonski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Robert D. Lonski
Administrator

RDL:rl